

CLAIMS:

1. A method of processing data packets in a packet-based communications system, the method comprising:

receiving a data packet having header and payload
information; and

processing the payload information irrespective of the header information.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein payload information is processed assuming that the data packet is a synchronous data packet.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the payload information of the data packet relates to voice information.

4. A method of processing data packets in a packet-based communications system, the data packets including header information and payload information, the method comprising:

receiving a data packet having header and payload
information;

detecting errors in the header information; and
if no errors are detected, processing the payload information on the basis of the header information; or

if an error is detected, processing the payload information independently of the header information.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein payload information is processed assuming that the data packet is a synchronous data packet.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the payload information of the data packet relates to voice information.

7. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the payload information is processed independently of the header information if the data packet is received in a reserved time slot.

5 8. A method of processing data packets in a packet-based communications system, the method comprising:

receiving a data packet having header and payload information;

10 determining the presence of errors in the header information;

if no errors are present in the header information, processing the payload information in accordance with the header information;

15 if an error is present in the header, determining if the received data packet was received in a reserved time slot, and

if so, processing the payload as synchronous data, or if not, discarding the data packet.

20 9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the synchronous data is voice data.